

Maricopa County Community Services Commission

Maricopa County Human Services Department

234 N. Central, 3rd Floor Conference Room

Phoenix, Arizona 85004

Monday, February 28, 2005

6:00 P.M.

Minutes

Members Present:

Chair – Councilman Ray Shuey, City of Avondale
Vice Chair - Councilman Fred Hull, Town of Gila
Bend

Marty Sonnenberg, Salt River Project
Councilwoman Kathie Farr, City of Tolleson
Councilman Steven E. Frate, City of Glendale
Councilman Larry Morrison, Town of Gilbert

Walter Gray, St. Vincent de Paul
Barbara Webster, Southwest Low-Income Rep.

Joe Blanton, Southwest Low-Income Representative
Lorenzo Aguirre, Northwest Low-income Representative

Members Absent:

Louise Moskowitz, APS	Excused
Robert Morehouse, Senior Citizens Council Maricopa County	Excused
Marta Monyer, Eastside Low-income Representative	Excused

Councilwoman Margarita Cota, Town of Guadalupe	Unexcused
Terri Cruz, Chicanos por la Causa	Unexcused
Sarah Bravo-Palma, Eastside Low-income Representative	Unexcused
Joyce Lopez-Powell, Valley of the Sun United Way	Unexcused
Mark Bratman, The Salvation Army	Unexcused

Presenters/Staff/Guests Present:

Staff:

Margarita Leyvas, Community Services Division
Mindy Wakefield, Community Services Division
Virginia Sturgill, Community Services Division

Guests

Racel Aleman, Chandler CAP
Donna Shuey

Presenters:

Susan Schmitt, Assistant Director, Workforce
Development Division

1. OPENING

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM by the Chairman, Councilman Ray Shuey.

B. Roll Call/Introductions

Virginia Sturgill called roll. Ten of eighteen seated members were present; a quorum was established. The following members were absent and asked to be excused: Louise Moskowitz, Bob Morehouse, and Marta Monyer.

Councilwoman Farr made a motion to excuse the absences. The motion was seconded by Councilman Frate. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

C. Opening Prayer

Councilman Frate led the prayer.

D. Pledge of Allegiance

Walter Gray led the Pledge of Allegiance.

E. Approval of Minutes

Councilman Morrison made a motion to accept the minutes of the 1/24/05 meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hull. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

2. Business

A. Directors Report

Marge Leyvas reported on CSD staff meetings and activities:

- West Valley Stakeholders Meeting.
- Benefits Check-Up Advisory Committee.
- LIHEAP Workgroup.
- APS training on electronic guarantees.
- Arizona Community Action Association board meetings.
- Arizona Community Action Association (ACAA) and the Arizona Association of Food Banks (AAFB) Annual Joint Conference planning committee. Conference is April 7-8, 2005 Commission members interested in attending will notify staff by March 1st.
- MAG Human Services Technical Committee.
- National Low-Income Energy Conference (NLIEC)/National Fuel Funds Network (NFFN) planning committee.
- Department of Commerce held a training on weatherization.
- Supervisors training.
- CAP staff New Employee Training, which is basic training on how to take applications and information on fund sources and eligibility criteria.
- MCHSD employee interview panels.
- Information on the NLIEC/NFFN Conference was distributed; commission members were encouraged to attend. Deadline to notify CSD staff is March 31st.
- DES/CSA conducted their on-site monitoring visit. Marge received a verbal confirmation that everything went well. Official written site visit notice is expected soon.
- Update on Proposition 200. The Governor instructed the state Audit and Managing Services to conduct independent agency audits of the URRD and NHN applications taken from Dec 22, 2004 to Jan 7th for compliance. MCHSD received short notice that files would be reviewed. Site visits were conducted in Glendale, Avondale, Wickenburg and the MCHSD office. Information was not provided on the final outcome of the audit.
- CAP on-site monitoring continues; 3 monitoring visits have been completed. During March staff will be visiting Gila Bend, El Mirage, Tolleson and Wickenburg. In April, Tempe CAP will be monitored.
- CSD staff started the contract process for the new fiscal year.
- Marge met with the Town Manager for the Town of Guadalupe to discuss CAP issues.
- Marge met with the Glendale City Manager and CAP staff to discuss the city of Glendale pursuing Community Action Agency designation. MCHSD will continue to provide information and support in the CAA designation. A meeting is scheduled with DES to request information on the procedures for CAA designation.

- DES funding formula – the gain is that the changes will not be retroactive to the beginning of the fiscal year; the changes will be in effect on April 1, 2005. The loss for FY04-05 is \$32,000. The Funding Formula cuts will still be in effect for FY05-06. CAP offices operating and administrative dollars will not be affected, but direct service dollars will be.
- Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) has recommended that APS hire a consultant to review the expansion of the weatherization and utility assistance program for the rate case that is before the ACC. ACAA will host a weatherization tour for ACC members, they will visit homes that have been weatherized. Marge reported that she will go on the tour. Information will be provided to Corporation Commissioners on the benefits of the weatherization program.
- “CAP Facts” was distributed with information on the President’s proposed budget. CSBG would be zeroed out and there would be a reduction to LIHEAP and CDBG. Marge stated if these cuts are made to these programs it would severely hurt communities. This would in turn impact the human services budget, and have an impact on social services in the communities.
- Marge reported that David Bradley, NCAF Executive Director believes that CSBG can be saved. The problem is that it has been up for reauthorization for 3 years, but has only been carried forward and not reauthorized. The reauthorization of CSBG is critical to Community Action; without CSBG the network would fall. CSBG pays for administrative and operating costs; it is the core of CAP funding.
- Marge will be in Washington DC from March 7th to March 11th. She will be attending the National Community Action Foundation Annual conference. Capitol Hill visits are scheduled with the Arizona Congressional delegation.
- PERK assembly will take place March 31st. SRP will sponsor breakfast; APS and SWG will sponsor lunch. 3000 PERKs will be assembled; commission members were encouraged to attend and help with assembly.
- Marge shared an article in the AZ Republic featuring Terri Cruz *“Alive and Still Kicking Butt, five women who reject aging as an excuse to avoid life”*
- At the ACAA conference each CAA presents a Heart in Hand award to individuals, Marge stated that she has requested that Maricopa County be allowed to nominate a company. Marge stated that she would like to nominate *Taylor Woodrow Homes* for their donation to the El Mirage CAP and for the work they did on a home in Gilbert for the “Extreme Home Makeover Show”. The donation to the El Mirage CAP helped ensure that the CAP remained in operation. Marge stated she would like input from the commission members on the nomination. Marge stated that if she is not allowed to nominate a company she will send information to commission members for their input on the nomination of an individual “Whose service has had an impact in the community”.
- Commission Membership - a letter was sent to Brian Spicker, Senior Vice President of Community Initiatives and Joyce Lopez-

Powell of Valley of the Sun United Way, regarding the lack of attendance at monthly commission meetings. The letter requests another representative be assigned to the commission and if a representative is not assigned within a reasonable amount of time, the organization could lose their seat on the commission. This will be on the March 28th commission meeting agenda.

- The Senior Adult Independent Living (SAIL) program will be operating under the Community Services Division effective in April. Chairman Shuey stated that SAIL is a good fit for merging with Community Services.
- Chairman Shuey commented that the National League of Cities will meet the week of March 14th in Washington DC. Anyone attending can bring the same message about the importance of CSBG. Chairman Shuey stressed that CDBG does play a role in delivering social services at the community level.

B. Presentation on Workforce Development

Susan Schmidt, Assistant Director Workforce Development Division provided information on activities and programs. Susan stated that funding is from Department of Labor-Workforce Investment Act (WIA) formally Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA). The intent of WIA is to be a case management intensive model when delivering services. Participants are evaluated to determine interest and skills, and case managers work with clients to identify their full spectrum of possibilities. WDD has several Career Development Centers through out Maricopa County. Anyone can access the services in the centers, with no eligibility requirements. Centers have Career Labs, computers, fax machines, copy machines and assisted technology for disabled individuals. A resource lab is set up for individuals to check out job readiness videos, job listings, job fairs and job training.

Susan stated that the Career Centers have a battery of workshops that are held on a weekly basis on resume writing, interview techniques, and job search skills. Interest, Aptitude, and Transferable skill assessments are completed with participants. These assessments are web-based, and a printout is provided with results for participants to determine their career direction.

Susan reported WIA mandates that multiple agencies work together to provide services. WDD works with 17 partner agencies. A full list of the partnering agencies is listed in the WDD brochure. Services are available for individuals that receive TANF benefits form DES, Adult dislocated workers, and youth. These centers are OneStop Centers. Individuals can also apply for various services such as unemployment insurance and vocational rehab. Susan reported that they have Job Clubs and members gather to network and share information on job searches. Susan reported that last year there were over 80,000 visits in the Centers. In the Adult Dislocated Worker program 4,000 individuals were assisted and training was provided to 1,200 individuals with an 87% job placement. Estrella Mountain Community College has asked WDD to set up a comprehensive OneStop Center on the campus. Susan reported that several large companies have been on site at the OneStop centers, and hired individuals for their facilities. Susan invited commission members to visit the OneStop Career Centers.

Commission members asked staff to explore the possibility of having a meeting at one of the OneStop facilities.

C. Presentation on LIHEAP workgroup progress

Mindy Wakefield Human Services Planner provided an overview of the LIHEAP workgroup. This group formed to gather information to provide to Arizona's top state officials and members of the state's Congressional delegation on LIHEAP funding in Arizona as compared to the rest of the nation. Mindy reported that AZ ranked last in the nation in Federal LIHEAP funding per low-income person. Fewer than 10% of the eligible low-income residents in AZ received assistance in FY 2003. The LIHEAP funding formula favors cold weather states. Mindy reported that a delegation from the LIHEAP workgroup met with the Governor to discuss the issue, and inspire her to advocate for the 3.4 billion dollars from the federal government. If the full LIHEAP allocation was provided to AZ the amount would go from 7.3 million to 35.9 million, a gain of 28.6 million. In January the Governor signed onto the Western Governors Association letter in support of the release of full LIHEAP appropriations. Information has been forwarded to the Arizona lobbyist in Washington DC and the DES Deputy Director. Utility company lobbyists want to meet with congressional staff members to gain support of the release of the full LIHEAP appropriations. Discussion on changing the federal funding formula followed. The best solution would be to advocate for full release of LIHEAP appropriations.

D. Resource Committee

Chairman Shuey reported that the Commission By-laws provide for a Resource committee to assess and evaluate all resources and funds available for the provision of services through the CAP offices.

Marge provided additional information on the composition of the Resources committee; "at least five (5) individuals: three (3) private sector representative members of the Commission and at least two (2) individuals from the community at large". To avoid conflict of interest, low-income representatives and public/elected Officials may not serve on the committee because they represent specific areas. Eligible individuals include: Mark Bratman, Walter Gray, Marty Sonnenberg, Joyce Lopez-Powell, Terri Cruz, Louise Moskowitz and Bob Morehouse. Two individuals with a background or knowledge on CAP services would come from outside the commission. Marge reported that she had discussed the Resource committee at a MAG Technical Committee meeting. Marge stated that she asked Any St. Peter of MAG if she would check into the possibility of servicing on the committee or provide data as needed.

The committee will determine the criteria needed to help the commission make a decision on merging CAP service areas and any necessary CAP closures.

Commission members were asked to volunteer to serve on the committee. Walt stated he would like to be excused from serving. Chairman Shuey suggested that staff contact the absent members and determine their interest in serving on the committee.

Marge restated that the administrative funding is In place for FY 06. If there was a possibility of CAP office closure, notice should be provided to the subcontractor as soon as possible.

Discussion on committee composition restrictions: Chairman Shuey asked that copies of the by-laws be distributed at the next meeting to consider if the by-laws need to be amended. Councilman Morrison stated that he could see why the committee would only include representatives from the private sector. Chairman Shuey asked that names of people that may be able to fill the 2 additional seats be provided to Marge.

E. Commission Member resignations

Marge reported that HHS had sent out letters to all the CAAs in the nation with information regarding the composition of the Tri-Partite boards. Marge contacted HHS and asked for clarification on CAP staff serving on the commission. Marge reported that HHS responded that having CAP staff serve on the commission is a conflict of interest. Because of this Lorenzo Aguirre and Marta Monyer have resigned their positions as low-income representatives on the commission. Lorenzo was given a plaque for his years of service on the commission. Marta was not present to receive her plaque.

3. Closing

A. Board Remarks & Announcements

- Walt Gray asked if CSBG was cut would the other funding sources be used to fill the voids. Marge stated that the other funding sources have a very low threshold on amounts allowed for administrative costs, and some sources have legislative limits.
- Walt asked if it was possible to reduce the amount of direct service dollars provided to families in order to help more families. Marge reported that under the LIHEAP fund a worksheet is used to determine the minimum and maximum allowable; these are mandated by DES. Marge reported that funding sources set limits. CAP staff are already doing as much as they can to stretch the direct service dollars.
- Walt asked if there was an organization that will be heading up a letter writing campaign in support of CSBG. Marge stated that letters and calls from cities and towns and organizations would have greater impact.
- Councilman Hull stated that, with the passage of the Proposition 400 Transportation Tax, the Ajo Stage line will begin running again from Ajo through Gila Bend to Desert Sky Mall.
- Chairman Shuey stated that the lack of CSBG funds will have great impact on services in the community. The safety net would be pulled away from the community.
- Councilwoman Farr has been appointed to the National League of Cities Human Development Policy and Advocacy Committee, and she will be attending the national meeting in Washington DC the week of March 14th. Councilwoman Farr stated that she would be taking her talking points with her and will talk about the issues addressed.

B. Call to the Public

- None

C. Adjournment

Councilman Hull made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Frate. The vote was unanimous; the motion carried. The meeting ended at 8:00 PM.

